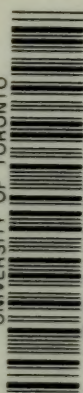


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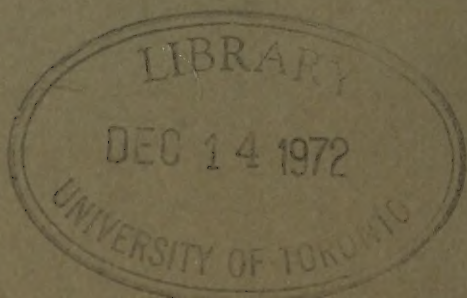
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The Future of Canada

The extraordinary Privileges of the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec

REV. CALVIN E. AMARON, M.A., D.D.

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Introduction.

The first decades of this century will necessarily be a crucial epoch for the Dominion of Canada. During this formation period, certain things must necessarily be done. To defer the doing of them, were to imperil the future of this British colony, which is making great strides toward nationhood.

The growth of Canada, its development not merely from a commercial and material point of view, but intellectually and spiritually, will depend very largely on what is now done or left undone by way of solving great and perplexing problems, the magnitude and importance of which are realized by the few only.

An Eastern Problem.

The Protestant Church of Canada in a large measure realize that the coming into our country of thousands of immigrants from Europe and elsewhere, with their erroneous beliefs, their false notions of government, their ill-conceived ideas of education, liberty and civilization, constitutes one of the most serious of problems.

It is now generally felt that if we fail to educate these masses, if we fail to instil in their minds right conceptions of government, if we do not put forth well-directed efforts to make of them good, Christian citizens, they will be a menace to the state, seriously retard the growth of the nation and imperil the stability of our British institutions.

Rome's Policy.

But whilst this fact is being more and more realized by the membership of the church and by Christian patriots generally; whilst contributions are increasing for what is known as Home Missions there are but few, comparatively speaking, who seem aware of the fact that the country has also an Eastern problem to solve, a problem which has for generations perplexed the nation and given color to legislation bearing on most of the vital questions which affect the destinies of Canada. This Quebec problem is of surpassing importance, and we cannot afford to remain indifferent to it.

It is imagined by many, that we have nothing to fear from Roman Catholic aggression, as a nation. For some unaccountable reason, men who are looked upon as being of sober judgment, close their eyes to the history of the Church of Rome in this British Colony, and in all the countries where she has held power.

this policy have not been beneficial to the conquered race nor to the country in general.

A French independent paper.

It belongs to English Protestantism to solve this question. If French Canada does not fall into line with the other provinces of the Dominion, the fault will lie very largely with Protestantism.

The thoughtful and educated men of the Province of Quebec are more than anxious that their liberties should no longer be restrained by the Romish hierarchy. Time and again they have founded papers in which they have given expression to their advanced views. But the clergy, by an abuse of power, has killed them.

They are anxious to reform the educational system of Quebec, to secure the liberty of the press and freedom of action generally speaking, but instead of meeting with encouragement from their English Protestant fellow-citizens, it is the opposing party that gets it. Thousands of dollars are contributed by Protestants to strengthen and build up a system which is hurtful to the best interests of the French race, whilst it is next to impossible to secure help for institutions which are creating loyal British citizens.

We have said that education of the right kind will speedily put the people of French Canada in full sympathy with British modes of thought. That the people are anxious for just such education is shown by the fact that our large French Protestant schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles, as well as those of other Protestant bodies are overcrowded. These schools turn out intelligent, well-informed young men and young women, trained on right lines, familiarized with the British constitution. From these

we can expect co-operation in the building of the nation.

Why should not the Christian patriots of Canada multiply these institutions? One is needed in the Ottawa Valley, another in the St. Lawrence Valley in the vicinity of Quebec, and the need of others will soon be felt. By means of the education given in such schools, in a very few years, the French Canadians will be led to see eye to eye with those who are intent on making Canada prosperous, great and happy.

If English Protestantism is in earnest, if it is desired that this British colony remain in its entirety loyal to the crown and become the gem of England, let a number of capitalists form a strong company, with ample capital, to establish and maintain a French daily paper absolutely independent, absolutely free from all fetters, political or religious, and thus able to discuss unhampered the great questions of the day, the living issues which lie at the foundation of national prosperity; a paper that need not ask each day permission from the hierarchy to exist. No such paper exists in Canada, and it is a question whether an English daily of this nature can be found in the country.

The times are propitious for earnest work. If English Protestantism has not lost its vitality, if it is truly anxious that Canada shall remain British and preserve the traditions for which English institutions stand, let it come to the help of those who by approved and successful methods have done and are doing much to solve one of the most vital problems which has ever been proposed to our nation for solution.

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